

24.

New Races of Alaudidae and Timaliidae from Northern Thailand.

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Three birds, known from northern Thailand for a number of years and assumed to belong to well known races, prove, upon comparison with the related forms, to require subspecific separation. For the loan of specimens of races not represented in the collection of the U. S. National Museum, I am indebted to the authorities of the American Museum of Natural History.

I.

A form of *Mirafra assamica* is the sole member of its family yet recorded from northern Thailand. Comparison of freshly moulted examples (autumn, early winter) has shown that, while they link *assamica* (Assam) and *marionae* (Central Thailand), they are strikingly different from each and should be given a name.

The new race has the prevailing tone of the upperparts gray, as in *assamica*, not rufescent, as in *marionae*; the dark centers of the feathers of the upperparts large and well defined, as in *marionae*, not obsolescent, as in *assamica*. I propose that it be called

+ *Mirafra assamica subsessor*, subspecies nova, with the type an adult female, U. S. N. M. no. 313450, collected at Chiangmai, North Thailand, 1,000 feet, November 24, 1928, by H. M. Smith.

All but one of the northern specimens of the lark come from the Chiangmai plain, where it is very common. The exceptional example, a summer-taken bird from Ban Me Mo (in the adjacent province of Lampang), is too worn for certain subspecific identification but probably belongs with *subsector*.

II.

The population of *Garrulax chinensis* occurring throughout northern Thailand belong to a race connecting *chinensis* (Kwangtung) with *propinquus* (Tenasserim).

This form has the mantle much more olivaceous than in *propinquus* and slightly more rufescent than in *chinensis*; the gray of the pileum cut off at the lower nape and clearly defined from the olivaceous mantle, as in *propinquus*. In brief, it may be described as *chinensis* with the pileum of *propinquus*. For it, I propose the name

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+ *Garrulax chinensis lochmius*, subspecies nova, with the type an adult male, U. S. N. M. no. 336663, collected at Chiengsen Kao, North Thailand, January 15, 1937, by H. G. Deignan.

Of *lochmius*, I have sixteen specimens from the provinces of Me Hong Son, Chiangmai, Chiangrai, and Nan. Probably may be placed here also Salvadori's example from Yado, Karenni, which "somiglia più ad un esemplare di Hong-Kong e forse appartiene ad una forma distinta, intermedia fra la cinese e quella del Tenasserim" (*Ann. Mus. Civ. St. Nat. Genova*, ser. 3, vol. 6, 1914, p. 6).

III.

A representative of *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*, recorded in Thailand only from Doi Chiengdao, between 4,500 and 6,800 feet, has proved to be, not *imberbis* (Karenni), as hitherto believed, but a quite different race, which may be known as

+ *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys celatus*, subspecies nova,

with the type an adult male, U. S. N. M. no. 336873, collected on Doi Chiengdao, North Thailand, March 20, 1937, by H. G. Deignan.

From *imberbis* it is readily distinguished by having the frontal feathers, sides of throat, neck, breast, and belly, the flanks, thighs, and under tail-coverts distinctly paler—orange-rufous, instead of chestnut-rufous; the feathers of the lores dark gray, not grayish-white. From *erythrogenys*, it differs in its smaller size, more vivid color along the sides of the body, and dark gray (not grayish-white) lores.

According to Stuart Baker (*Fauna Brit. India, Birds*, 2nd ed., vol. 1, 1922, pp. 220-222), all races of *erythrogenys* have the "iris light greenish white, yellowish white or pale bright yellow; legs and feet fleshy or fleshy-brown; bill yellowish-horny." The male of *celatus* has the irides red; the orbital skin plumbeous; the bill gray, with basal half dark slate; the feet, toes, and claws horny-brown.

With the new form I place skins from Kalaw and Taunggyi, in the Southern Shan States. *Imberbis* will, perhaps, like *Pomatorhinus sch. nuchalis* (a similarly saturate race), prove to be restricted to the Karen Hills.